

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying and removing given content files from a set of content servers in a content delivery network, wherein content servers share content files with each other, comprising:

identifying content files to be removed from the content servers;

pushing an aggregate purge request to each of a set of staging servers, each aggregate purge request including an identifier for each content file to be removed from the content servers;

periodically, having each of the set of content servers obtain the aggregate purge request from a given staging server, wherein the content servers obtain the aggregate purge request independently and at different times; and

at each content server, purging from the content server each content file identified in the aggregate purge request;

wherein after a first content server in the set of content servers has executed the aggregate purge request, inhibiting the first content server from receiving, from a second content server in the set of content servers with which the first content server shares content files, a given content file in the aggregate purge request if the second content server has not then executed the aggregate purge request.

2. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the aggregate purge request is pushed to the each of the set of staging servers over a secure link.

3. (Original) The method as describe in Claim 1 wherein the aggregate purge request is pulled from the given staging server to each of the set of content servers over a secure link.

4. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of issuing a notification that each content file identified in the aggregate purge request has been purged from the content delivery network.

5. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of issuing a notification that each content file identified in the aggregate purge request has been accepted for purging.

6. (Previously amended) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the content files to be removed from the content servers includes the step of verifying that a user requesting removal is authorized to purge the content files.

7. (Original) The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the user is a content delivery network customer.

8. (Original) The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the user is a content delivery network administrator.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) In a content delivery network wherein third party content is cached on and served from a set of content servers in response to end user requests, and wherein content servers share content files with each other, the improvement comprising:

a purge mechanism for selectively identifying and removing given content files from the set of content servers, comprising:

a Web-based interface for identifying content files to be purged from the content servers;

a purge server for receiving purge requests pushed from the Web-based interface, validating each purge request, and batching a set of purge requests into an aggregate purge request;

a set of staging servers for receiving the aggregate purge request pushed from the purge server; and

code executing on a given content server for periodically polling a given staging server, for pulling the aggregate purge request, [[and]] for removing the identified content files from the given content server, and for inhibiting given data sharing between the given content server and at least one other content server with which the given content server shares content files if the other content server has not then removed a given content file that has been removed by the given content server.

12. (Cancelled).